

SUBJECT

DATE _____

CASE NUMBER

SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA
PS 7-1
1/1/67

JORDAN-US

JACKET

No. _____

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM
Original to be Filed in _____ Decentralized Files.

PS 7-1 JORDAN-44
SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
FILE DESIGNATION

UNCLASSIFIED
A-227
HANDLING INDICATOR
TO : Department of State
INFO: AMMAN JERUSALEM TEL AVIV USUN
FROM : Amembassy BEIRUT
DATE: June 9, 1969
SUBJECT : Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and the Palestine Cause
REF :

Transmitted herewith is the text of a leaflet, which the Embassy received through the mail, concerning the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. It was signed by the "Palestine Women's Association".

The thesis of the tract is that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's action should be looked upon as a political action directly linked to the struggle of the displaced Palestinian people to regain their homeland. The writer hopes Sirhan's action will not prejudice the reaching of an understanding between the American and Palestinian peoples.

PORTER

Enclosure:
Leaflet from Palestine Women's Association

UNCLASSIFIED
FORM 10-64 DS-323
For Department Use Only
In Out
Drafted by: POL: JTMAndrew: cak
Drafting Date: Phone No.: Contents and Classification Approved by: POL: CF Jones
Clearances:

18 HB
Noted - file
NEA/ARN
6-19-69

696
JUN 11 1969
COPY

Encl. A227 Beirut

MEP

Friend,

In addressing your conscience we shall not resort to exaggeration. We shall only place before you essential facts relating to the case of a young man who is being tried in your country, America, namely Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

We are confident, while this case is being discussed by the American court, that law will prevail in the end. We agree that crime cannot solve the problems of the individual or of the community.

But the young man in question was deliberately uprooted from his homeland to face an unknown destiny which finally led him to your country while still a child. However, he was not a happy child as his memory was filled with the atrocious massacres committed by alien people in his country and against his people. You certainly agree with us that the case of a young man with such painful reminiscences of an unhappy childhood, should be treated within the framework of his people's cause.

We are aware that you must have known a lot about the cause of Palestine, the homeland of this young man. But we regret that, most probably, what you have known is widely different from the truth.

We also realise that the charge levelled at this man has created a delicate situation as regards U.S. relations with the Palestine problem raising many questions about the consequences of this incident to American and world public opinion.

The defendant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was born in Palestine and his family was a victim of the Israeli usurpation of this Arab country as a result of which it immigrated to America. The incident was committed one year after the aggression of June 5th., 1967. This timing underlines the importance of political considerations which cannot be easily overlooked.

This young man standing before the court, moves the conscience of the world with his bitter question «where is my homeland ? Where is my people ? And where is my house ?» The answer is, «I no longer have a country or a place which I can call mine. I am sick of living in a foreign country. I want a place whose inhabitants speak my language and eat the food I like... I want my city, Jerusalem, my land Palestine and my job there.»

These words echo the feelings of many other emigrants who ask the same question. All that they want from you and your people is, understanding. Nothing can be more painful for a valiant people struggling for their rights than to find these rights wasted through deceit and facts distorted and misrepresented.

Robert F. Kennedy and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan are both victims of intertwined factors. We hope, friend, that you would realise this fact and draw the attention of your great people to it.

With best wishes for friendly ties and understanding between our two peoples.

Yours Sincerely,

Palestine Women Association

DEPT. DISTRIBUTION
ORIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM
Original to be Filed in _____ Decentralized Files.

PS 7-1 JORDAN-44
SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
FILE DESIGNATION

UNCLASSIFIED
A-227
HANDLING INDICATOR
NO.

TO : Department of State
INFO: AMMAN JERUSALEM TEL AVIV USUN

FROM : Amembassy BEIRUT
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SUBJECT : Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and the Palestine Cause

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Leaflet from Palestine Women's Association

POST ROUTING
TO: Action Info. Initials
AMB/PO
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Action Taken:

Date:
Initials:

Drafted by: POL: JTMcAndrew: cak
Drafting Date: Phone No.: Contents and Classification Approved by: POL: CF Jones

FORM 10-64 DS-323
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Clearances:

1969 JUN 10 11 23 6961
COPY 10-64 DS-323



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 148

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02466 280623Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, RSR 01, /029 W

103139

R 271205Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7985

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 2466

USIAC

USIA FOR USINFO, IOP, DEPT FOR NEA

SUBJECT: CONTINUING PRESS SUPPORT FOR SIRHAN

REF: AMMAN 2440

1. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUING GIVE ATTENTION TO SIRHAN. IN AN EDITORIAL OF MAY 25, AD-DUSTOUR CALLS ON ARAB RESISTANCE MOVEMENT CONTACT VIET CONG AND REQUEST THEM TO OFFER TO EXCHANGE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IF LIFE OF SIRHAN NME TAKEN. DUSTOUR FEELS VIET CONG WOULD QUOTE EARNESTLY VIEW THE MATTER, CONSIDERING UNITY OF PURPOSE AMONG RESISTING PEOPLES EVERYWHERE.... UNQUOTE DUSTOUR ALSO FEELS THAT IF VIET CONG MAKE SUCH OFFER, FAMILIES OF AMERICAN POW'S WILL BRING PRESSURE ON WASHINGTON AND SIRHAN WOULD ESCAPE GAS CHAMBER.
2. DUSTOUR RETURNED TO THE ATTACK IN ISSUE OF MAY 26 WHEN IT CHARGED THAT QUOTE SIRHAN KILLED KENNEDY BECAUSE KENNEDY WANTED GIVE ENEMY MORE ARMS TO KILL SIRHAN'S PEOPLE. THE KILLING WAS THEREFORE IN DEFENSE OF THE PEOPLE WHOM THE UNITED STATES INSISTS ON ASSASSINATING!.... SIRHAN WILL BE MENTIONED IN HISTORY ONE DAY AS ONE OF THOSE WHO HAVING DONE THEIR DUTY FACE DEATH WITH SMILE OF SATISFACTION THAT THEY GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR THEIR PEOPLE UNQUOTE.

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Amman 2466
5-27-69



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02466 280623Z

COMMENT: IF LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES PRESENT UNSAVORY CAMPAIGN, GOOD POSSIBILITY IT WILL SUCCEED IN CONVINCING MANY JORDANIANS THAT CONVICTED KILLER SIRHAN IS IN FACT HERO. THIS COULD HAVE NASTY CONSEQUENCES LOCALLY IF DEATH SENTENCE FINALLY CARRIED OUT.

STRATMON

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 132

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02440 261433Z

47
ACTION USIA 00

INFO OCT 01, NEA 13, P 04, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, DODE 00, RSR 00

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091029

R 261345Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7969

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 2440

USIAC

USIA FOR USINFO: IOP, IPS, IBS: DEPT FOR NEA

SUMMARY: DURING THE COURSE OF THE SIRHAN TRIAL, LOCAL MEDIA TENDED TO TAKE SOMEWHAT RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD SIRHAN, AND RESTRICTED COVERAGE GENERALLY TO RUNNING STORIES FROM THE COMMERCIAL WIRELESS SERVICES. SINCE THE DEATH SENTENCE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE JURY ON APRIL 21, THE LOCAL PRESS HAS BECOME MORE SYMPATHETIC TO SIRHAN. GOVERNMENT-OWNED TV AND RADIO CONTINUE TO RESTRICT COVERAGE TO STORIES FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES BUT NEWSPAPERS NOW ATTEMPTING PORTRAY SIRHAN AS HERO WHO CONTINUES TO DESERVE SUPPORT OF ARABS.

1. PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COURT'S DECISION IN THE SIRHAN TRIAL, PRESS RADIO/TV ALL TENDED RESTRICT COVERAGE TO LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM UPI, REUTERS, MENA, ETC. LOCAL JOURNALISTS PRIVATELY ADMITTED THAT LITTLE SYMPATHY IN JORDAN FOR KILLER OF FATHER OF TEN CHILDREN.

2. SINCE COURT'S VERDICT, PRIVATELY-OWNED PRESS SEEMS DETERMINED MAKE SIRHAN HERO. AMMAN'S WEEKLY ARABIC AL-MASA, WHICH IS LEFTIST-LEANING AND THOUGHT BY SOME OBSERVERS LOCAL SCENE TO BE IN POCKET OF RUSSIAN EMBASSY, IN STORY MAY 5 POSED QUESTION QUOTE WHEN WILL ARABS MOVE SAVE LIFE THE HERO-FEDAYEE UNQUOTE. PAPER SUGGESTED

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Amman 2440
5-26-69



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02440 261433Z

WASHINGTON AND ITS RULERS WOULD NOT DARE TO EXECUTE SIRHAN IF HE WERE JEWISH. QUOTE BUT WASHINGTON TAKING MEASURES EXECUTE BRAVE MAN, WHOSE ONLY FAULT ATTEMPT STOP AMERICANS FROM PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH PHANTOM AIRCRAFT UNQUOTE. SAME ISSUE AL-MASA RAN ARTICLE BY WELL-KNOWN POET, AL-AFHANI, IN WHICH RINGING PHRASE QUOTE THIS HERO-S BLOOD IS ON THE ARABS UNQUOTE USED. AFHANI CONCLUDED ARTICLE SAYING QUOTE SIRHAN WILL NOT DIE..... HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE IN HEART OF HONEST STRUGGLE (JIHAD) AND IN HEARTS OF STRUGGLERS UNTIL DOOMSDAY UNQUOTE.

3. SIMILAR SENTIMENT EXPRESSED IN ARTICLE BY WELL-KNOWN JORDANIAN ANGLICAN PRIEST, REVEREND AKEL, WHO PRESENTLY HAS SMALL CHURCH IN IRBID. HIS ARTICLE PRINTED AD-DIFAA, ARABIC DAILY, MAY 14 SAID HE SENDING A QUOTE DEEPLY FELT SALUTATION TO THE SOLDIER AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTER THE SALUTE GOES TO THE LION CUB OF THE PALESTINE CATASTROPHY, SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. WE SEND IT WITH THE SOUND OF OUR FIGHTERS' SHOTS REVERBERATING ACROSS THE OCEANS, TO QUAKE THE DEATH CELL AND SHAKE AMERICA FROM THE DEPTHS UNQUOTE.

4. A MEMBER OF JORDAN'S PARLIAMENT, EMILE AL-GHOURY, DEPUTY FOR JERUSALEM, SAID ON MAY 17 IN AD-DUSTOUR, MOST WIDELY READ LOCALLY PRODUCED ARABIC DAILY, THAT QUOTE THE (SIRHAN) CASE PROVIDES FOR THE ARABS A RARE AOPPORTUNITY TO UNCOVER THE AMERICAN PREJUDICE AGAINST THE ARABS, ESPECIALLY THE PALESTINIANS, THEIR RIGHTS AND INTERESTS..... ALTHOUGH THE JURY'S VERDICT WAS DEATH...THE CASE IS NOT OVER YET.....ARABS STILL HAVE WIDE FIELD TO SAVE LIFE SIRHAN.....ARABS, OFFICIALS AND OTHERS, MUST CHANGE THEIR FORMER MISERABLE ATTITUDE, AND ADOPT EFFECTIVE DECISIVE POSITION.....ARAB LAWYERS AND BAR ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE TO CONTRIBUTE SERIOUSLY IN DEFENDING SIRHAN AND PROVIDING NECESSARY FUNDS FOR APPEAL UNQUOTE.

5. RECENT EDITIONS OF ARABIC PRESS HAVE RUN PHOTOS OF CALIFORNIA'S GAS CHAMBER; SIRHAN'S MOTHER'S REACTION TO SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY'S APPEAL FOR HER SON'S LIFE TO BE SPARED; AND NOTICE TO READERS THAT UAR'S SAWT AL-ARAB IS SERIALIZING THE STORY OF SIRHAN'S LIFE FROM FIRST OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE TERRITORY UNTIL SENTENCE WAS

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 03 AMMAN 02440 261433Z

PASSED THAT SIRHAN MUST DIE IN GAS CHAMBER. STRATMON

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 7-9

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, 172 W
041441

R 281353Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5361
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 1443

REF: SIRHAN CASE

1. SAUDI PRESS HAS FOLLOWED SIRHAN CASE ALMOST DAILY WITH LOW KEY STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE. COMMENT OF SIRHAN'S FATHER THAT EXECUTION WILL HARM US-ARAB RELATIONS HAS ALSO BEEN CARRIED WITHOUT COMMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT ON COURT PROCEEDINGS.

2. FIRST EDITORIAL COMMENT SINCE VERDICT AND SENTENCING APPEARED TODAY IN UKAZ BY ALI OMAR JABR, URGING ARABS NOT TO FEEL SAD FOR SIRHAN SINCE GRIEF IS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO LOSE WAY, EDITORIALIST ARGUES SIRHAN "LIGHTING THE WAY AND DEFINING THE GOAL." HE CONCLUDES DYING IS "SIMPLEST DUTY" FOR CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

3. COMMENT: EDITORIAL IS OBVIOUS EFFORT MAKE BEST OUT OF BAD THING. FROM BEGINNING SAUDIS HAVE HAD MIXED FEELINGS ON SIRHAN'S ACT. THEY REALIZED IT WAS MISGUIDED AND HARMFUL TO OVERALL ARAB CAUSE, YET LIKE OTHER ARABS HAVE SOUGHT CONVINCING THEMSELVES THAT SIRHAN IS HERO OF FEDAYEEN TYPE NOW SO WIDELY HERALDED HERE FOR EXPLOITS AGAINST ISRAEL. THIS IS LIGHT IN WHICH BAROODY RECENTLY TRIED CAST SIRHAN AT UN. SAUDI PRESS MEDIA HAS FOUND IT SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT PORTRAY HIM AS SUCH, BUT MAY NOW BE EXPECTED TRY TO WHIP UP MORE CONVICTION ALONG THESE LINES. IF TAKEN TO LOGICAL CONCLUSION AFOREMENTIONED EDITORIAL WOULD ALMOST APPEAR BE CALLING

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4-28-69



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 01443 281417Z

FOR POLITICAL ASSASSINATION, BUT WE DOUBT THAT EITHER WRITER OR
SAUDI READERS PREPARED READ THAT MUCH INTO IT.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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~~SECRET~~

Classification

FLASH

ACTION: Amembassy BONN

STATE

TOSEC 67

FROM ACTING SECRETARY
EXDIS

1. Today's Washington Post (Feb. 26) carries a Frank Mankiewicz and Tom Braden article entitled "Rogers Backed but Judge Rejected Sirhan Guilty Plea for Life Term." Following are some of pertinent quotations from article.

2. "The State Department specifically approved an agreement reached here last week by which Sirhan Sirhan would change his plea to 'guilty' in exchange for a sentence of life imprisonment."

3. "Los Angeles District Attorney Evelle Younger advised Secretary ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of State William P. Rogers in Washington of these possibilities in the bargaining between his office and the Sirhan defense staff and received approval from Rogers for the plan."

4. "In conversations with Secretary Rogers, he was advised that the State Department--as a matter of U.S. foreign

Drafted by:

S/S:RLBrown:al

2/26/69

Tel. Ext.

6033

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

S/S - John P. Walsh

Clearances:

S - Mr. Moffat

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Classification

policy--would find the proposed deal acceptable. If Sirhan were to plead guilty and receive life imprisonment, the reasoning went, it could only have a beneficial effect as far as the fierce and violent Middle East passions were concerned."

5. "Armed with Rogers' approval, Younger returned to the scene of the trial here and approved the bargain."

6. Full text of article being sent by unclassified septel.

7. It can be expected Department's press spokesman will be asked to comment on the accuracy of this report. Until and unless we hear from you otherwise, he will say that he knows nothing about it.

~~XIII~~

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN,
BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 00074 070901Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO H 02, L 03, P 04, USIA 12, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, SY 03, FBI 01, JUS 02,

RSR 01, RSC 01, /053 W

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R 070829Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2076
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 0074

REF: STATE 1200 ps 74

DEPUTY PRIMIN AHMAD TOUGAN AFFIRMED DEC 6 THAT GOJ HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION SEND OFFICIAL OBSERVER TO OBSERVE SIRHAN TRIAL. ALSO TO BEST HIS KNOWLEDGE NO PRIVATE JORDANIAN LAWYERS ARE PLANNING ATTEND. TOUGAN RECALLED GOJ HAS QUIETLY DISCOURAGED INITIATIVE BY JORDANIAN LAWYERS IN JUNE 1968 (AMMAN 5439 AND AMMAN 5402) AND POSITION GOJ OPPOSING SUCH PRIVATE REPRESENTATION IS UNCHANGED. SYMMES

Amman 74
1-7-69

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

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BISHARA

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3 JAN 69 23

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

Info:

INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT
Amconsul JERUSALEM

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Trial

1. In reply query Jordanian Ambassador Sharaf has informed Dept that to best his knowledge GOJ does not rpt not plan send special reps or one of Embassy officers to observe Sirhan trial due beginning Jan 7 at Los Angeles. Sharaf stated Jordanian representation will be handled by Honorary Consul George Zureiqat (US citizen), who will be available observe certain sessions as necessary. He thought it unlikely Zureiqat plans sit through entire proceeding.
2. Recalling reports several months ago that head Jordanian Bar Association might attend trial, Dept would appreciate Embassy discreetly confirming that GOJ has decided not send official observer.
3. Please advise also if ~~XXXX~~ you aware any private Arab lawyers who may be planning attend trial in unofficial capacity.

END

RUSK

Drafted by:

NEA/ARN:PJGriffin:dmg 1/3/69

Tel. Ext.

3235

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by: NEA/ARN - Talcott W. Seelye

Clearances:

L/NEA - Mr. Neuman

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Department of State^{XR}
TELEGRAM

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

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SIRHAN BISHARA

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00026 030854Z

22
ACTION 10 15

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P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, /096 W
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R 030805Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4748
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 26/SIRHAN

SUBJ: BAROODY

REF: USUN 05 - UN 22-2 SAUDI
PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN

1. BELIEVE REPRESENTATION TO SAG RE BAROODY'S STATEMENT QUITE IN ORDER AND PREPARED TAKE UP MATTER WITH FONOFF WITH REQUEST IT BE BROUGHT TO KING'S ATTENTION. AM CONFIDENT FAISAL DISAPPROVES THIS KIND OF STATEMENT.

2. SUGGEST CARE BE TAKEN AVOID CHALLENGING BAROODY PUBLICLY. USG REPUTATION HERE THESE DAYS IS SUCH THAT DOING SO WILL ONLY MAKE HERO OF HIM LOCALLY AND MAKE HIM MORE DIFFICULT CURB. REGRETTABLE FACT IS THAT MANY SAUDIS HAVE COME TO VIEW SIRHAN ACTION PRECISELY IN LIGHT IN WHICH BAROODY HAS SOUGHT TO CAST IT. GP-4.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State SIRHAN BISHARA

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2 DEC 68 16 46Z

Origin

ACTION: Amconsul JERUSALEM

Info:

INFO: Amembassy TEL AVIV
" AMMAN

STATE:

SUBJ: Investigation of Robert Kennedy Assassination

REF: Jerusalem 1841 / PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA

1. DEPT has passed INFO contained REFTEL to Los Angeles Police Department as well as interested Washington agencies.
 2. DEPT notes (PARA 1 REFTEL) that Congen Off did not inform Bishara Sirhan that questions originated with Los Angeles police. We believe that in future Congen and other posts that may receive requests for assistance of this nature from Los Angeles Police Department should inform person being questioned of origin of inquiry.
- DEPT has requested Los Angeles Police Department to forward any further inquiries to DEPT for transmission to posts. END.

GP-3

RUSK

Drafted by:

12/2/68
L/NEA:RHNeuman:eg /

Tel. Ext.
5895

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

L/NEA - Robert H. Neuman

Clearances:

NEA/IAI - Mr. Sterner

NEA/ARAN- Mr. Paganelli

Justice - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
(Copy)

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Department of State SIRHAN BISHARA
TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 214

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ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13, JUS 02, SY 03, FBI 01, SS 25, GPM 04, NSC 10, INR 07, CIAE 00,

NSA 02, RSC 01, RSR 01, /072 W

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R 300810Z NOV 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2067
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1841

INVESTIGATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

FOR L/NEA NEUMAN

REF: AMMAN 7593; STATE 278136

1. CONGENOFF AND SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE INTERVIEWED BISHARA SIRHAN EVENING NOV 29. SIRHAN FRIENDLY, MILD, APPARENTLY COOPERATIVE, BUT VAGUE ON DATES AND NAMES. CONGENOFF DID NOT RPT NOT INFORM HIM QUESTIONS ORIGINATED WITH LOS ANGELES POLICE. NO ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWED TWENTY MINUTE CONVERSATION ABOUT SIRHAN'S RECENT TRAVELS AND HIS VIEWS,

2. SIRHAN SAID HE LIVED ABOUT TEN MONTHS IN PASADENA IN 1957 BUT WAS OFTEN IN NEW YORK. HE THEN SHIFTED RESIDENCE TO 156 ALLEN STREET, NEW YORK CITY, WHICH REMAINED HIS ADDRESS DURING PERIODS IN UNITED STATES DOWN TO HIS LATEST DEPARTURE MARCH 1966. SIRHAN SAID HE WORKED "FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS" STARTING 1959 FOR WELBILT CORPORATION (PERHAPS WELLBUILT CORP) WHICH HE SAID WAS CONSTRUCTING STORES AND OTHER BUILDINGS. HE DID NOT GIVE WELBILT ADDRESS. SIRHAN DESCRIBED HIS JOB AS "DRILLER", EXPLAINING HE USED VARIOUS HAND TOOLS AND MACHINERY.

3. WHEN SIRHAN RETURNED TO UNITED STATES IN 1964 HE WAS REEMPLOYED BY WELBILT CORP AND CONTINUED RESIDE AT 156 ALLEN STREET. HE STATED THAT "FOR A LITTLE WHILE" HE WORKED AS A PLUMBER BUT CANNOT REMEMBER CIRCUMSTANCES THIS EMPLOYMENT. HE PROUDLY DISPLAYED

CONFIDENTIAL

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Received
11-30-68
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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01841 300923Z

CERTIFICATES AND COMMENDATIONS FROM BRITISH MANDATE OFFICIALS REGARDING HIS FORMER WORK AS PIPE FITTER IN JERUSALEM, REINFORCING CLAIM HE LOYAL, SKILLED WORKER.

4. CONGENOFF ASKED SIRHAN IF HE COULD REMEMBER NAMES OF ANY CLOSE FRIENDS FROM HIS YEARS IN NEW YORK. SIRHAN SAID TO CONTACT WELBILT WHERE "THE ENGINEERS, FOREMEN, AND ESPECIALLY THE PERSONNEL OFFICE KNOW ME WELL."

5 COMMENT: SIRHAN SEEMED FLATTERED AT CONSUL'S VISIT AND SPOKE AT LENGTH OF HIS CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND THE NEED FOR USG TO BRING PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST AND RESTORE REFUGEES TO HOMES. HE SAID NOTHING BITTER OR VIOLENT SUCH AS SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS HAD ASCRIBED TO HIM DURING RECENT TOUR OF ARAB CAPITALS. HE SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GO TO UNITED STATES TO BE WITH SON AND HELP HIM BUT HE LACKS SUFFICIENT FUNDS. CONGEN LOCAL WHO VISITED SIRHAN FIVE MONTHS AGO IN CONNECTION EARLIER DEPT QUERY, NOTES SIRHAN HAS APPARENTLY SPENT ABOUT 2000 DOLLARS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO HIS HOME SINCE THEN.

GP-3 CAMPBELL

CONFIDENTIAL

8

37



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 893

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06123 160953Z

20
ACTION NEA 15

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,

SS 25, USIA 12, NSA 02, RSR 01, /088 W

036924

R 160925Z NOV 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5028
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 6123

SUBJECT: BISHARA SIRHAN. LETTER TO AMBASSADOR

1. ON NOVEMBER 15 AMBASSADOR RECEIVED LETTER FROM BISHARA SIRHAN FATHER OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. ELDER SIRHAN INVEIGHS AGAINST ALLEGED HARSH IMPRISONMENT HIS "HEROIC" SON. HE WONDER WHY AMERICANS, WHO UPHELD HONOR AND DIGNITY OWN COUNTRY BY KILLING INDIANS, BOMBING HIROSHIMA AND NORTH VIETNAM ETC. ARE CONSIDERED HEROES WHILE HIS SON WHO UPHELD HONOR ARAB NATION IMPRISONED. SIRHAN ENDS DIATRIBE WITH CALL FOR RELEASE OF SON.

2. EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF LETTER REPORTED IN NOVEMBER 13 JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE NOTING SIRHAN'S RETURN FROM MONTH VISIT TO JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA AND KUWAIT IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT RAIEL FUNDS TRAVEL WTO SONS TRIAL.

3. EMBASSY NOT REPEAT NOT PLANNING REPLY LETTER. COPY AND IN-

FORMAL TRANSLATION OF WHICH WILL BE POUCHED DEPARTMENT (NEA/IAI). BARBOUR

Tel Aviv 6123
11-16-68

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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11

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

278136

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

SIRHAN BISHARA

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin

ACTION: Amconsul JERUSALEM PRIORITY

26 Nov 68 23 01z

Info:

INFO: : Amembassy AMMAN
" TEL AVIV

STATE:

REF: Jerusalem 1831; Amman 7593

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

DEPT has no objection CONGEN interviewing Bishara Sirhan as proposed reftel. Request, however, that you forward results of interview to DEPT attention L/NEA Neuman rather than sending response directly to Chief Reddin. FYI: DEPT wishes to consult with Justice Department on all ~~are~~ aspects this and related inquiries. END FYI.

END

RUSK

Drafted by:

11/26/68
L/NEA:RHNeuman:eg /

Tel. Ext.

5895

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

L/NEA - Robert H. Neuman

Clearances:

NEA/ARN - Mr. Paganelli Justice Department - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.

NEA/IAI - Mr. Sterner

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX(info.)

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Classification



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 387

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01831 261001Z

22
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SY 03, FBI 01, CIAE 00, INR 07, RSC 01, NSA 02, L 03, SS 25, GPM 04,

NSC 10, RSR 01, /072 W

089317

R 260830Z NOV 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2057
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1831

INVESTIGATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

AMMAN 7593 —

ASSUMING DEPT HAS NO OBJECTIONS, SENIOR CONGENOFF WILL SEEK
INTERVIEW BISHARA SIRHAN RE LOS ANGELES POLICE QUERY REFTEL AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

EXEMPT CAMPBELL

MICROFILMED BY RS, B

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
7

Jerusalem 1831
11-26-68

(11)



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

POSSIBLE DUPLICATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 885

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07593 251220Z

19

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SY 03, FBI 01, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, L 03, SS 25, GPM 04, NSC 10,

RSR 01, RSC 01, /072 W

091474

R 251030Z NOV 68

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6810

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 7593

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM ROBERT A. HOUGHTON, DEPUTY CHIEF, DEPT POLICE, LOS ANGELES, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN INTERVIEWING BISHARA SALAMEH GHATTAS SIRHAN, EL BATEH, RAMALLAH (FATHER OF ACCUSED). LETTER STATES QUOTE WE WISH TO ASCERTAIN HIS RESIDENCES, EMPLOYMENT(S) AND ACQUAINTANCES DURING THE PERIODS OF TIME THAT HE LIVED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE DATES IN QUESTION ARE MAY 14, 1959, UNTIL MAY 27, 1963, AND MAY 5, 1964, UNTIL MARCH 11, 1966. THIS INFORMATION IS VERY PERTINENT TO OUR INVESTIGATION, AND AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE. UNQUOTE.

2. OUR REPLY TO LETTER NOTES AREA IN QUESTION UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND STATES REQUEST FORWARDED TO CONGEN JERUSALEM AND EMBASSY TEL AVIV FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION AND REPLY THROUGH SECSTATE.
SYMME

Amman 7593
11-25-68

(1)

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75



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN
 SIRHAN, BISHARA
 Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 602

PAGE 01 LONDON 13547 161952Z

82
 ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, GPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, P 04, RSC 01,

USIA 12, NSA 02, SY 03, RSR 01, /076 W

125373

R 161708Z OCT 68
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6682
 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 AMEMBASSY JIDDA
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 13547

SUBJ: TRAVELS OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: AMMAN 6876; STATE 251743 NOTAL.

1. WE INFORMED FONOFF ARABIAN DEPT OF BISHARA SIRHAN'S PLANNED TRAVEL IN GULF AREA LAST WEEK WHEN INFORMATION RECEIVED.

2. MCCARTHY, ARABIAN DEPT. HEAD, TOLD EMBOFF YESTERDAY THAT FONOFF HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO REPORTS OF ANY KIND RE SIRHAN'S VISIT. BRUCE

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

7

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 405

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 01169 080659Z

16
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, CIA 04, NSA 02, INR 07, P 04, USIA 12, H 02, L 03, SCA 02,

VO 02, SY 03, JUS 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, EUR 15, /110 W

----- 074110

R 080625Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 893
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DHAHRAN 1169

REF: AMMAN 6876

IF SIRHAN IS TO VISIT GULF STATES BRITISH POL AGENTS MAY
BE CONSULTED BY RULERS. SUGGEST REFTEL BE REPEATED
LONDON ASKING EMBASSY DRAW FONOFF'S ATTENTION TO SIRHAN'S
PLANS.

EXEMPT. DINSMORE

DHAHRAN

10/8/68

1169

(1)

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75

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN-

SIRHAN, BISHARA

251743

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

A

8 OCT 68 20 38z

Origin

ACTION: AmEmbassy LONDON

Info:

STATE

REF: Amman's 6876 (rptd London)

SUBJECT: Bishara Sirhan

Embassy should inform Foreign Office of Sirhan's planned visit to Gulf States.

END

MICROFILMED 11/6/68

KATZENBACH

①

Drafted by: NEA/ARP:JNGatch:rf:10/8/68	Tel. Ext. 5655	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA/ARP - William D. Brewer
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Clearances:
EUR/BMI - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Mr. William Waller

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

27

CONFIDENTIAL 854

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01709 041607Z

47

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25,L 03,H 02,NSC 10,P 04,USIA 12,INR 07,CIAE 00,NSA 02,RS 01

RSC 01,1082 W

R 051427Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1979
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

057302

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1709

SUBJECT: SIRHAN TRIAL

REF: AMMAN 5402 —

MAYOR NADIM ZARU OF NABLUS INFORMED CONGENOFF OCT 3 THAT BISHARA SIRHAN, FATHER OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF ROBERT KENNEDY HAD WRITTEN LETTER "MONTH AGO" (PRESUMABLE SENT BEIRUT) ASKING MUSA ALAMI AND HENRI KATAN (REFTEL) TO DEFEND HIS SON AT UPCOMING TRIAL IN LOS ANGELES. NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND MAYOR ASSUMED LETTER NEVER REACHED ITS DESTINATION.

GP-3

CAMPBELL

RECEIVED BY 32.4

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM



CONFIDENTIAL 387

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01707 041017Z

19
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, P 04, USIA 12, L 03, H 02, VO 01

SY 03, JUS 02, (RSR 01, RSC 01, SCA 02, /091 W

055322

R 040915Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1977
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1707

SUBJECT: TRAVELS OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: AMMAN 6876

1. RE REPORTS MP ABDUL SALEM AL-URI JOINING BISHARA SIRHAN IN PROPOSED FUND-RAISING TOUR (REFTEL). MAYOR ZARU AND OTHER RAMALLAH CONTACTS SAY AL-URI REAL LIGHTWEIGHT. HE HAD BEEN CLERK IN JORDANIAN TAX OFFICE UNTIL DISMISSAL, TRIAL AND CONVICTION ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES. THROUGH FAMILY INFLUENCE (AND PROBABLE BRIBERY) HE WAS RELEASED AFTER TWO MONTHS. IN USUAL INCOMPREHENSIBLE WORKING OF LOCAL JORDANIAN POLITICS, AL-URI BECAME PROTEGE OF MP ALI RAMAHI AND RAN WITH HIM DURING APRIL 1967 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. HE WAS UNOPPOSED AND THUS GAINED SEAT. CATEGORIZING HIM AS "WORTHLESS", RAMALLAHANS SHRUG OFF OBVIOUS QUESTION OF WHY THEY ELECTED SUCH MAN TO REPRESENT THEM.

2. ZARU SAID SIRHAN HAD VISITED HIM TWO WEEKS AGO TO ARRANGE PERMIT FROM OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES FOR TRAVEL TO AMMAN. SIRHAN SAID HE HOPED GET BANK LOAN IN AMMAN FOR TRAVEL TO US SINCE OWN MEANS INSUFFICIENT.

GP-3 CAMPBELL

CONFIDENTIAL

Jerusalem 1707
10-4-68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06876 021215Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSA 02, P 04, USIA 12, L 03, H 02, SCA 02,

VO 02, SY 03, JUS 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, /091 W

041939

R 021150Z OCT 68

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6883

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 6876

SUBJ: TRAVELS OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: BEIRUT 13004, 12899

1. AMMAN PRESS (OCTOBER 1) REPORTED RETURN OF SIRHAN FROM BEIRUT AND (OCTOBER 2) HAS PLANNED DEPARTURE WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS FOR KUWAIT AND GULF STATES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DEFENSE OF HIS SON.

2. PRESS ADDS THAT JORDANIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM RAMALLAH, ABDUL SALEM AL-'URI, WILL ACCOMPANY SIRHAN. HE PROBABLY EXPECTS TO CAPITALIZE ON PUBLICITY SURROUNDING VISIT AND MAY, IN TURN, LEND IT AN AIR OF OFFICIAL SANCTION. AL-'URI IS ALSO A KNOWN FATAH SYMPATHIZER.

EXEMPT. SYMMES

Amman 6876
10-2-68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Department of State SIRHAN BISHARA
TELEGRAM

4

Jerusalem 1704
10-1-68

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 812

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01704 010831Z

18
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, P 04, USIA 12, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, VO 02, SCA 02,
L 03, H 02, RSC 01, RSR 01, EUR 15, /101 W

R 010800Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1976
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1704

SUBJECT: BISHARA SIRHAN VISA

REF: BEIRUT 13004, STATE 184216 (NOTAL)

RE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED BISHARA SIRHAN IN BEIRUT PRESS CON-
FERENCE SEPT 26 (BEIRUT REFTEL) THAT "US EMBASSY TEL AVIV INFORMED
HIM HE COULD OBTAIN VISA WHENEVER HE APPLIED", WE HAVE
CHECKED WITH CONSULAR SECTION AT EMBASSY AND REVIEWED CONTENT
TWO CONVERSATIONS SIRHAN HAD WITH CONGENOFF AND AGREE NO RPT
NO SUCH ASSURANCES GIVEN BY EITHER OF THESE OFFICES. IF HE
APPLIES HERE, WE PREPARED ISSUE WITHIN TERMS STATE REFTEL
PARA ONE.

EXEMPT CAMPBELL

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13004 271724Z

47

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, P 04, USIA 12, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, VO 02, SC& 02,

L 03, H 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, /086 W

R 271544Z SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13004

SUBJ: BISHARA SIRHAN'S ACTIVITIES

REF: BEIRUT'S 12899

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SIRHAN BEIRUT SEPT 26. IN PREPARED STATEMENT, SIRHAN SAID SON WANTED TO KILL PRO-ISRAELI POLICY KENNEDY HAD BEEN ADVOCATING, NOT KENNEDY THE MAN. HOWEVER, SHOCK OF JUNE 67 WAR HAD PROVOKED HIM TO ASSASSINATION.

2. ALSO SAID: ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE SHOULD HELP SAVE SON'S LIFE, INCLUDING INTERCESSION WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES; HE WILL GO FROM LEBANON TO SYRIA AND KUWAIT; IF FUNDS AVAILABLE, LAWYERS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, FRANCE, AND GERMANY WILL BE HIRED TO DEFEND HIS SON; US EMBASSY TEL AVIV INFORMED HIM HE COULD OBTAIN VISA WHENEVER HE APPLIED. PORTER

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Beirut 13004
9-27-68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Department of State
TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 971

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01554 250941Z

17-11

ACTION NEA 15

INFO L 03, JUS 02, SY 03, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, /034 W

R 250750Z SEP 68

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828

STAK GRNC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1554

REF: BEIRUT 12899 —

IF BISHARA SIRHAN SHOULD VISIT KUWAIT PER REFTEL
WILL WE NEED INSTRUCTIONS STATE 184216 WHICH NOT
SENT KUWAIT?

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN

Kuwait 1554
9-25-68

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 747

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12899 241721Z

50

ACTION NEA 15

INFO VO 02, SCA 02, SY 03, IO 13, SS 25, NSC 10, L 03, JUS 02, NSA 02, CIAE 00,

DODE 00, INR 07, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12, GPM 04, RSR 01, 106 W

R 241526Z SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6064
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12899

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: STATE 184218 (NOTAL)

1. BISHARA SIRHAN, FATHER OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY, PRESENTLY VISITING BEIRUT TO GAIN "MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT" FOR HIS SON'S CASE. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE BISHARA SIRHAN INTENDS VISIT NUMBER OF OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES FOR SAME PURPOSE. REPORTEDLY, HE WILL VISIT KUWAIT NEXT. HE TOLD LEBANESE PRESS SEPT 23 THAT IT DUTY OF EVERY ARAB TO HELP HIS SON BECAUSE THIS WAS "ARAB CAUSE." MAIN THESIS SIRHAN PROPAGATING IS THAT HIS SON ACTED TO SERVE "PALESTINIAN CAUSE" AND THAT SIRHAN SIRHAN IS "THE SON AND THE BROTHER OF EVERY ARAB." ALSO STATED THAT DETAILED REPORT ABOUT MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SITUATION FORWARDED TO HIS SON'S ATTORNEY IN US SO THAT LATTER WILL BE FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MOTIVATED SIRHAN SIRHAN TO KILL SENATOR KENNEDY. BISHARA SIRHAN PLANS TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE SOME TIME DURING HIS STAY IN BEIRUT.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THAT BISHARA SIRHAN PLANS VISIT NY AS PART OF "A PALESTINIAN DELEGATION" (PRESUMABLY TO UNGA).

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Beirut 12899
9-24-68

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Department of State

TELEGRAM
23

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 12899 241721Z

3. TO DATE BISHARA SIRHAN NOT RPT NOT APPLIED FOR US
VISA. EMBASSY WILL PROCEED PER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED
REFTEL UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.

GP-3.

PORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL ACTION		
RM/R	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
VO	SCA	
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA
JOS		

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US
SIRHAN BIS HARA
FOR RM USE ONLY

20

A-464
NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Jerusalem

FROM : Amembassy AMMAN

DATE: September 16, 1968

SUBJECT : Inquiry from Los Angeles Police Department Concerning
Past Residences of the Sirhan Family

REF :

A letter (Enclosure No. 1), dated August 21, from the Chief of Police of the City of Los Angeles to Ambassador Symmes asked the Embassy to forward to the Director General of Jordan's Public Security Forces a request for information concerning events which took place in the areas of the known residences of the Sirhan Family in the 1940-1957 period, during the time of their residence in each area. The purpose of the inquiry was to obtain information for use in connection with a possible defense in the Sirhan trial based on the theory of a diminished capacity of the accused to form intent caused by accumulated traumatic experiences during his childhood.

The Embassy's interim reply (Enclosure No. 2), dated August 31, informed the Los Angeles Police Department that the area of the Sirhan family's former residences was now under Israeli control and that an inquiry addressed to the Jordanian authorities would not, in the Embassy's opinion, prove productive. The Embassy proposed, as an initial alternative, to gather what information it could through discreet inquiry and forward it to Los Angeles.

Enclosures: (Unclassified when detached from covering communication)

1. Letter of August 21 from Los Angeles Chief of Police
2. Embassy's interim reply of August 31
3. Memorandum with appended map of Jerusalem - results of Embassy's preliminary inquiry

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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(UNCLASSIFIED ENCLOSURES)

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES

Drafted by: POL:RHPelletreau/clc 9/14/68

Content and Classification Approved by:

Clearances: POL:MDraper

DCM:ESDuncan

SEP 19 1968

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Handwritten notes:
etc. Sirhan &
Vinson
Los Angeles 9/23/68
Pleice
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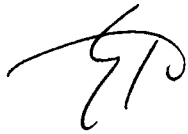
CONFIDENTIAL

2

A memorandum with appended map of Jerusalem (Enclosure No. 3) sets forth the results of the Embassy's preliminary inquiry which included several books, personal knowledge of officers at the American Embassy in Amman and the American Consulate in Jerusalem, and conversations with local employees from the Jerusalem area. Conversations with other than official Americans were restricted to discussion of events without reference to the Sirhan case. Any effort on the part of the Embassy to relate the events described to particular members of the Sirhan family would have required direct questioning of persons acquainted with the family and living in the specific area at the time. A detailed inquiry of this nature would necessitate a considerable expenditure of time and effort by Embassy personnel as well as bringing Jordanian, and perhaps Israeli authorities into the matter, all of which the Embassy would be reluctant to do in the light of present tensions in the area.

The memorandum and map are forwarded to SCS for review and transmittal to the City of Los Angeles Police Department.

SYMES



CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
California

Department of
Police

Ref. No. 6.24

August 21, 1968

The Honorable Harrison M. Symmes
The United States Ambassador
United States Embassy
Amman, Jordan

This department is conducting a thorough investigation of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California.

A very important phase of the investigation is a complete background coverage of the suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, from the date of his birth to the date of the assassination. Considerable documented background information has been gathered on the Sirhan family. The recent plea of "Not Guilty" by Sirhan indicates a possible defense based on the theory of a diminished capacity to form intent which was caused by accumulated traumatic experiences. This necessitates a history of said experiences for study and evaluation by the psychiatrist assigned to the prosecution.

The Sirhan family has alleged that as a child the accused was exposed to many bombings, strafings and possible death in the streets while living in New and Old Jerusalem. Our historical research indicates that many bombings and strafings occurred in the Jerusalem, Palestine area from 1944 through 1948. There is further indication that there were occasional incidents of that nature from 1948 through 1957 in Jerusalem, Jordan. In view of the above it is imperative to the medical rebuttal that it be determined if Sirhan, in fact, actually experienced such incidents.

Immigration data, known former residences of the Sirhan family and a list of questions are enclosed. Pursuant to advice received from Mr. Byron Engle,

Director,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

United States Embassy
August 21, 1968
Page 2

Director, Office of Public Safety, Agency for International Development,
Washington, D.C., it is requested that this information be forwarded to
the Director General, Jordanian Security Force, for investigation.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

THOMAS REDDIN
Chief of Police

/s/ R. A. Houghton

ROBERT A. HOUGHTON, Deputy Chief
Commander, Detective Bureau

Enclosures

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure No. 1

Page 3

Questions:

1. What was the extent of bombings, strafings and/or terrorist activities during 1944 through 1957, in the areas encompassing the residences of the Sirhan family indicated in the enclosed list?
2. Describe if possible the extent of structural damage, loss of life and injuries etc., caused by this activity in the areas and period of years indicated.
3. Describe if possible the general living conditions in the refugee villages in Jerusalem, Jordan during years 1948 - 1957.

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KNOWN RESIDENCES OF SIRHAN FAMILY IN NEW AND OLD JERUSALEM

- 1940 - 1942 El Quatamon (Unknown Address)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1943 - 1944 Beit Safafa (Unknown Address)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1944 - 1946 Tabah off Rumalla Rd. (Unknown Address)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1946 - 1948 Marbullis (phonetic) Street or Saint Paul Street
near Saint George School, English Commissioners Building
and a radio broadcasting station. The family also lived
on Murara Street and Mimilla Road (Unknown Addresses)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1948 - 1957 Moved inside wall to Old Jerusalem, Jordan. The family
states they lived in a refugee village, which was one
of fifteen in the area. Housing was composed of tents,
some buildings and caves. Food and water were allegedly
scarce.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

August 31, 1968

Dear Chief Reddin:

I have your letter of August 21, Ref. No. 6.24, regarding Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and certain background information you seek concerning areas in which he reportedly lived.

As the area of what was formerly Palestine in which Sirhan resided is now under Israeli control and Jordanian authorities do not have access to all of their records on the West Bank, we do not believe it would be too productive to ask the Jordanian security authorities to try to compile the information you have requested. We propose, therefore, initially to seek to answer your questions as completely as we can, both through our own knowledge and through discreet inquiry by Embassy personnel. We are also exploring the subject through the Consul General in Jerusalem. We will further consider the prospects of obtaining from the Government of Jordan a statement on events in the areas concerned; however, we would appreciate your views on the usefulness of material developed entirely by the Embassy.

We hope to forward a report to you within the next ten days. This, therefore, should be considered an interim reply.

Sincerely,

Harrison M. Symmes
American AmbassadorThomas Reddin, Chief of Police
City of Los Angeles
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMORANDUM

This memorandum describes events which took place in the area of the known residence of the Sirhan Family during the period of their residence. Sources include several books recording events of the time, personal knowledge of officers of the American Consulate in Jerusalem and the American Embassy at Amman, and conversations with natives of Jerusalem. A map of Jerusalem, printed in 1952, is attached.

Much has been written on Jerusalem during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, particularly from the Jewish side. The following references are suggested:

Barnett Litvinoff, Road to Jerusalem, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London 1965
Harry Levin, I Saw the Battle of Jerusalem, New York 1950
Dov Joseph, The Faithful City, New York 1960
Zeev Sharef, Three Days, New York 1962
Harry Sacher, Israel, the Establishment of a State, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London 1952
Jacques de Reynier, A Jerusalem un drapeau flottait sur la ligne de feu, Histoire et Societe d'Aujourd'hui, Geneva 1950
Jon and David Kimche, Both Sides of the Hill, Secker and Warburg, London 1960
J.C. Hurewitz, The Struggle for Palestine, W. W. Norton and Co., New York 1950
Christopher Sykes, Cross Roads to Israel, Collins, London 1965

1940-1942 El Qatamon, Jerusalem, Palestine

El Qatamon, or Katamon, is a residential district on the southwestern outskirts of Jerusalem which, prior to the 1948 Arab-Israel war, was largely inhabited by upper-middle class Christian Arabs. 1940-1942 was a period of prosperity in El Qatamon, during which no fighting or disturbances on a significant scale are known to have taken place.

1943-1944 Beit Safafa, Jerusalem, Palestine

Beit Safafa is an Arab village on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv rail line, situated to the southwest of Jerusalem about one mile beyond El Qatamon. Although in 1944 fighting did break out against the British in some parts of Palestine, to the best of our knowledge no fighting occurred in Beit Safafa in the 1943-1944 period.

UNCLASSIFIED

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1944-1946 Tabah (off Ramallah Road), Jerusalem, Palestine

Tabah may be either Tibeh or Taibeh, birthplace and current residence of the father of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. Taibeh is a Christian Arab village, located about 8 miles northeast of the town of Ramallah. So far as the Embassy is aware, no fighting on a major scale took place in the Ramallah-Taibeh area during 1944-1946. The period did witness much fighting in other areas of Palestine, however, including the blowing up of Jerusalem's King David Hotel in July 1946.

1946-1948 Mar Boulos (Saint Paul) Road, near the Saint George School, the British Commissioner's Building and the radio station. Also Murara Street and Mamilla Road, Jerusalem, Palestine

Saint Paul's Road and Mamilla Road (EF-3 and DEF-4 on the appended map) are main thoroughfares in the area of Jerusalem west of the Old City and east of King George Avenue. Murara Street is located in the Mahne Yehuda district (BC-2, 3). Fighting began between Arabs and Jews in November 1947 and intensified with the termination of the British Mandate on May 15, 1948. Heavy fighting and much destruction took place in the vicinity of the radio station, just west of St. George's School and Saint Paul's Road in 1948. Many of the houses destroyed in this area have never been rebuilt. Sniping and terrorist activity took place at the same time in the vicinities of Murara Street and Mamilla Road.

A chaotic situation prevailed in the Jerusalem area of Palestine in 1947-1948. The massacre of some 250 Arabs, including women and children, in the Jerusalem suburb of Deir Yassin in April 1948 by the Irgun, a Jewish terrorist organization, had a profound effect on the Arab community and stimulated the flight of many Arabs from Jewish-controlled or disputed areas.

1948-1957 In a refugee village inside the Old City

During and after the 1948 fighting, many Arabs from West Jerusalem took refuge in the Old City. For the most part they were taken into the homes of friends and relatives or allowed to live in church buildings rent free. Some may have slept in caves. There was no "refugee village" as such, but many refugees established themselves in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City where a large number of buildings had been destroyed during the fighting. Initially, they lived in tents or temporary shelters built of rubble, until 1954-1955 when more permanent shelters of stone or mud with corrugated roofs were built. Food was apparently not particularly scarce, but water was rationed by the Old City authorities during the 1948 fighting owing to the fact that Jewish forces had closed off outside water sources and the city had to rely on internal supplies.

Attachment: Map of Jerusalem (1952)

UNCLASSIFIED

22

HANDLING INDICATOR

"2. The bullet that shot Kennedy was an inevitable necessity because Zionism has succeeded in attracting bigoted Christians in America into an unholy alliance by convincing them that the Palestine problem is a dispute between Moslems and Jews, and that it is a Christian duty to support the Jews. Sirhan killed Kennedy because he is an Arab first and a Christian second. He killed Kennedy for the sake of his homeland which was usurped by the Jews with the help of the Americans. Living in this atmosphere of direct challenge, Sirhan discovered the necessity for this bullet.

☒ In ☐ Out

Contents and Classification Approved by:
GCM: ESDuncan

Illustrationen

UNCLASSIFIED

2

"Kennedy's assassination has raised many questions in America, such as: What has this Christian to do with it? Are the Arab Christians with the Moslems? For whose sake did Sirhan shoot Kennedy? It is sufficient that Sirhan's bullet has raised such questions among Americans.

"3. Arabs everywhere have denied responsibility for this assassination and have avoided comment on the virtues of political assassination. This attitude of the Arabs toward Sirhan is similar to the attitude of Pilatus toward Christ.

"Will Sirhan's trial be able to melt the indifference and passivity of the Arabs toward this Arab patriot in a foreign land?"

SYMES



UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/
SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA

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RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA
HSC		

A-438

NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Beirut

FROM : Amembassy AMMAN

DATE: August 16, 1968

SUBJECT : Embassy Receives Cut-Outs Requesting Fair Trial for Sirhan

REF :

In the past two weeks, the Embassy has received about a dozen cut-outs which reportedly appeared in one of the Beirut newspapers and which read as follows:

"FOR SIRHAN SIRHAN

"For the sake of a fair trial for Sirhan Sirhan...this announcement should be cut out and sent to the American Embassies in the Arab countries.

"The Embassy of the United States of America

"City.....

"Country

"We ask that the trial of Sirhan Sirhan be just and in accordance with the law, taking into consideration the honorable motive which drove a noble youth to sacrifice his personal freedom to elevate the cause of his people above the cheap bargaining in the marketplace of the American elections.

Signature".

A copy of the original cut-out in Arabic is enclosed.

Enclosure: as stated.

SYMES

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by:

POL:RHPelletreau/clc 8/14/68

Contents and Classification Approved by:

DCM:ESDuncan

Clearances:

POL:MDraper

Encl - A438 Amman 11EA
8/11/68

الحب سرحات سرحات

من أجل محاكمة صحيفة سرحات سرحات المطلوب
نزع هذه القسيمة وأرسلها إلى سفارات الولايات المتحدة
الأمريكية في البلدان العربية .



سفارة الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

المدينة : عمان
القطر : الأردن

محاكمة الشاب العربي سرحات سرحات نريدها صفة
ومنسجمة مع روح القانون الذي يعدل أراء الحافظ الشريف
الذي دفع ثلما نبلا لان يضمني بحريته من أجل أن ترفع قضية
شعبه فوق المزايدات الرخيصة في بورصة الانتخابات الأمريكية .
التوقيع



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

22

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 375

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01470 051446Z

47

ACTION NEA 15

INFO CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,

SS 20,USIA 12,NSA 02,VO 02,SCA 02,SY 03,FBI 01,INS 03,RSR 01,

/094 W.

R 051354Z JUL 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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BISHARA SIRHAN

JERUSALEM 1449

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA

1. JERUSALEM POST REPORTER ANAN SAFADI, INTERVIEWING FATHER OF SUSPECTED KENNEDY SLAYER SIRHAN SIRHAN AFTER NEWS OF ATTACK ON SA'DALLAH SIRHAN BECAME KNOWN, SAYS IN JULY 5 NEWS STORY THAT BISHARA SIRHAN WANTS TO BRING WIFE AND CHILDREN HOME FROM STATES BECAUSE HE FEELS "THEY ARE UNSAFE THERE." SAID SIRHAN PLANNED APPEAL TO US AMBASSADOR TEL AVIV "TO URGE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON TO DO ITS UTMOST FOR MY FAMILY'S PROTECTION."

2. REACTING TO NEWS OF ATTEMPT ON SECOND SON, SIRHAN QUOTED AS SAYING "WHY DO THEY HUNT US NOW? WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO DO WITH THE INCIDENT." HE TOLD SAFADA THAT ON LEARNING OF THAT NEWS, HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO SEE RAMALLAH MILGOV BUT WAS REFUSED AN INTERVIEW. SAID HE WAS CONCERNED WITH "MY OWN SELF-PROTECTION. I ALSO FEEL UNSAFE," AND ADDED "NOBODY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF PERSON ATTEMPTED KILL MY OTHER SON."

3. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, SIRHAN SAID HE HAD CHANGED MIND ABOUT GOING TO US. SAID HE HAD WITHDRAWN ALL HIS MONEY FROM AMMAN BANK BUT HAD FOUND IT NOT ENOUGH TO COVER EXPENSES OF

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Jerusalem
7-5-68
1470

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Department of State

TELEGRAM
22

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 01470 051446Z

TRIP.

EXEMPT CAMPBELL

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37

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

193868

SIRHAN
BISHARA

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED
Classification

BP

29 JUN 68 00 13z

193868

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

Info:

INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT
Amembassy TEL AVIV
Amconsul JERUSALEM

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case

Press reported June 28 that Sirhan in brief court hearing was granted an additional three weeks delay before entering plea to murder charge. Press coverage of hearing being summarized in June 28 USIA wireless file.

END

RUSK!

4

Drafted by: NEA/ARN:RPPaganelli:dmg 6/28/68 5617 Tel. Ext. Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA/ARN-Robert B. Houghton

Clearances:

NEA/P - Mr. Brown
USIA/IAN - Mr. Stephen
L/NEA - Mr. Neuman

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Classification

(11)



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Department of State *SIRHAN BISHARA*
TELEGRAM

25

CONFIDENTIAL 538

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01449 281304Z

51

ACTION NEA 15

INFO L 03, JUS 02, SS 20, NSC 10, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, RSRI 01, RSC 01.

/061 W

R 281230Z JUN 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1822
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1449

SUBJECT: SIRHAN CASE

REF: STATE 190034

IN CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL LAWYER ANTON JASIR ON ANOTHER
MATTER JASIR REVEALED HE IS BISHARA SIRHAN'S LAWYER HERE.
HE HAD BUCKLEY LETTER WE DELIVERED TO BISHARA. JASIR STATED
ELDER SIRHAN WILL NOT TRAVEL US AS HE FEARS FOR HIS SAFETY
IN VIEW THREATS MADE ON SON'S LIFE. JASIR WAS DRAFTING REPLY
TO BUCKLEY TO THIS EFFECT.

GP-3 CAMPBELL

RECEIVED BY 12-2

CONFIDENTIAL

*Jerusalem 1449
6-28-68*

(1)

37

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

190034

BISHARA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

XX POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

25 JUN 68 18 49z

Origin
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN PRIORITY

INFO: Amembassy TEL AVIV "
Amconsul JERUSALEM "

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case

REF: AMMAN 5423 (NOTAL), STATE 184336 (NOTAL)

1. Please deliver letter from Buckley to Bishara Salameh Sirhan as soon as possible in accordance with instructions in State reftel. Though Sirhan has acquired private counsel, California Public Defender's Office retains ^{interest} ~~interest~~ in case.

2. For Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. If Bishara Salameh Sirhan has departed Amman for West Bank, you should coordinate with Amman on delivery of letter.

GP-3

END

KATZENBACH

Drafted by: NEA/ARN:RPPaganelli:dmg 6/25/68 3235 Tel. Ext. Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA/ARN - Robert B. Houghton

Clearances: L - Mr. Neuman
S/S - Mr. Brown JUSTICE - Mr. Vinson (inform)

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Classification

190034



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM
25

CONFIDENTIAL 126

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05439 211334Z

53

ACTION NEA 15

INFO L 03, P 04, H 02, GPM 04, NSC 10, SP 02, SS 20, RSC 01, JUS 02, USIA 12,

CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSR 01, /083 W

P R 211105Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5810
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5439

SUBJ: SIRHAN CASE

REF: STATE 187381, AMMAN 5400

1. ASSUMPTION STATE REFTTEL CORRECT THAT, AS INDICATED PARA 3 AMMAN 5400, EMBASSY HAS NOT APPROACHED GOJ ON SUBJECT SIRHAN DEFENSE.

2. AHMAD KHALIL, ONE OF FOUR LAWYERS, HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED TO AMBASSADOR THAT TALHOUNI PUT ANY PRESSURE ON LAWYERS OR THAT HE TOLD THEM USG HAD PUT ANY PRESSURE ON GOJ IN THIS MATTER.

3. IF ASKED, EMBASSY WILL DENY ANY USG APPROACH OR DISCUSSION WITH GOJ ON MATTER DEFENSE SIRHAN.

4. AMMAN DAILY, AD-DIFA'A, JUNE 20 CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH AHMAD KHALIL, IN WHICH KHALIL SAID, VGFWERNING THE MEETING WITH PRIMIN TALHOUNI QUOTE DELEGATION TOLD PRIMIN OF CONTACTS IS HAS MADE WITH LAWYERS IN NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HENRI KATAN (AMMAN 5402), AND THAT IN THEIR OPINION IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR DELEGATION NOT TO GO TO U.S. BUT TO ENTRUST MR. KATAN WITH TASK DUE TO HIS EXPERIENCE IN AMERICAN LAWS AS RESULT HIS HAVING REPRESENTED PALESTINE AT UN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. END QUOTE. ARTICLE ADDED THAT KATAN HAD CONSENTED TO MISSION AND WOULD TRAVEL TO U.S. AT HIS OWN EXPENSE, CALL ON SIRHAN, AND THEREAFTER MAKE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF PAN-ARAB

CONFIDENTIAL

1

Amman 5439
6-21-68



Department of State

TELEGRAM

25

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 05439 211334Z

LAWYERS FEDERATION AS
A QUALIFIED AMERICAN LAWYER SINCE
AMERICAN LAW DOES NOT PERMIT NON-AMERICAN LAWYERS TO
DEFEND A PERSON ON TRIAL IN AMERICA. DUE TO GREAT EXPENSE
INVOLVED, KHALIL REPORTEDLY SAID, MR. KATAN HAS ASKED
PAN-ARAB LAWYERS FEDERATION TO PAY FEE OF AMERICAN LAWYER
SELECTED. AD-DIFA'S SAID IT HAS LEARNED THAT FEDERATION HAD
AGREED. SYMMES

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37



PS 7-1 JORDIAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 536

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05402 200853Z

21
ACTION NEA 15

INFO AF 09, SY 03, JUS 02, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,
NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, ~~RSR~~ 01, SCA 02,
/097 W

P 200810Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5794
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
FBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5402

SUBJ: SIRHAN CASE

REF: AMMAN 5400 AND STATE 186741

CONFIRMING STATE 186741, PRESS AND LOCAL SOURCES REPORT
JORDANIAN BAR ASSOCIATION HAS DECIDED NOT REPEAT NOT SEND LAWYERS
TO U.S. AND THAT DECISION TAKEN AT URGINGS OF PRIMIN TALHOUNI. HENRI
KATAN, AN ABLE LAWYER AND STRONG NATIONALIST, NORMALLY RESIDING
IN BEIRUT, MAY, HOWEVER, AT OWN EXPENSE ATTEND TRIAL AS SIMPLE
OBSERVER, NOT AS REPRESENTATIVE BAR ASSOCIATION.

SYMMES

RECORDED BY 578

CONFIDENTIAL

Amman 5402
6-20-68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

187381

BISHARA

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INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

20 JUN 68 21 52

2

2

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN IMMEDIATE

Info:

INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT
Amconsul JERUSALEM
Amembassy TEL AVIV
FBI

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case

REF: STATE 18591, AMMAN 5400

DELIVER TO ACTION OFFICER OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 21.

1. Following article appeared late edition New York Times
June 20:

"Jordan Lawyers Won't Help - Special to the New
York Times, Amman, June 19. Four Jordanian lawyers
decided today under government pressure to cancel plans
to fly to Los Angeles to help the defense of Sirhan.

Premier
"Their decision came shortly after they met/Bahjat
al-Talhouni here for more than an hour. The Premier is
understood to have told them that the United States had
told Jordan that their presence at the trial would harm
United States-Jordanian relations."

Drafted by: NEA/ARN:RPPaganelli:dmg 6/20/68 3236
Tel. Ext. Telegraphic transmission and
Classification approved by: NEA/ARN - Robert B. Houghton

Clearances:

P/ON - Mr. Thirkield
NEA/P - Mr. Brown
L/NEA - Mr. Neuman

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Classification

187381

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Classification

2. We assume from AMMAN 5400 that Embassy has not rpt not approached GOJ on subject. Request your further comments soonest.

3. Dept has received one inquiry on NYT article and has described its substance as erroneous.

GP-3

END

RUSKI

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Classification

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

June 19, 1968

Participants: Chief Robert A. Houghton
Los Angeles Police Department

L/NEA - Robert H. Neuman *RH*

Subject: Case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan

I spoke with Chief Houghton by telephone this morning regarding a visit made last night to Sirhan by the Jordanian Honorary Consul in Los Angeles, Mr. George Zuraykat. Chief Houghton confirmed that the visit did occur and resulted from a request made by Sirhan through his attorney, Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield. During the visit Sirhan and Zuraykat were required to sit on opposite sides of a glass partition and to speak to each other through a telephone. They were further required to converse in English and were informed that should they attempt to speak in any other language the phone connection would be terminated. Chief Houghton said that these conditions were the customary regulations in the prison in which Sirhan is being held. Mr. Littlefield sat with Zuraykat during the visit and, according to Chief Houghton, no prison official was present in the immediate vicinity where the conversation was carried on. Chief Houghton added that Mr. Littlefield had requested that the above described security precautions be observed during this visit. The Chief also said that Mr. Littlefield had been permitted to visit Sirhan privately on several occasions, an exception to the normal prison regulations, and that no one else, including members of Sirhan's immediate family, was permitted such private visits. According to Chief Houghton Mr. Littlefield has requested that these precautions apply to all persons seeking to visit Sirhan. The Chief suggested that if we wish to discuss visits to Sirhan in further detail we contact Mr. Littlefield directly or the Chief Public Defender, Mr. Richard Buckley.

cc: SCA - Mr. Smith
NEA/ARN - Mr. Houghton
L - Mr. Salans

L/NEA:RHNeuman:ew

CONFIDENTIAL

*PS 7-1 Jordan-MS / SIRHAN
SIRHAN
Bishara*

2/2

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: June 19, 1968

SUBJECT: The Case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan

PARTICIPANTS: His Excellency Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Ambassador of Jordan
Mr. Robert B. Houghton, Country Director, NEA/ARN

COPIES TO: INR (10) S/S Embassy, Beirut
L SCA Embassy, London
ARN (3) Embassy, Amman
H Consulate General, Jerusalem
U Embassy, Tel Aviv

The Jordan Ambassador called on me this morning at his request to discuss the current status of the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan case in California. He was particularly interested in discussing the implications to Sirhan's trial should four Jordanian lawyers come to the United States to either assist the defense of or actually to defend Sirhan in the courts. He said that he was opposed to the lawyers' coming, as it would interject into the case a political element, which we have all been endeavoring to avoid. He mentioned that he had sent a strong message to his Government recommending that if at all possible the lawyers be dissuaded from coming to the U. S. for the above purpose. Now that the Federation of Lawyers in Amman had apparently made a decision to do something about the Sirhan case (he reminded me that the Federation was politically oriented), there was a limit to how much influence the Jordan Government could exert on the lawyers because they were now committed to take some action. He mentioned that he was returning to Jordan for approximately a week in the next few days and that he would do what he could about the situation. The best that could be expected, however, would probably be to persuade the lawyers or the Federation to finance the hiring of a highly qualified American lawyer and to nominate one of their own members to the United States to act as observer during the trial. He was not even sure that this could be arranged.

I told him that we felt strongly that the Jordanian lawyers should not come to the U. S. for the very reason that he had offered. We, however, were to some extent caught on the horns of a dilemma in trying to persuade the lawyers against coming because we also did not want to open ourselves to the charge that we were denying Sirhan the right to request a lawyer of

NEA/ARN:RBHoughton/mc
(Drafting Office and Officer)

CONFIDENTIAL

FORM DS-1254
2-65

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JUN 24 PM 5:18 7-1 Jordan-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA

(2)

his choice, which could include Jordanian lawyers. The Jordan Government could probably state the concern we both shared more effectively than we could. We were both interested in insuring that Sirhan received a fair trial and that no political development enter the picture to prejudice a fair trial. I told him that I hoped that he could state his case as strongly as possible in Amman. He said he would.

He asked me when the trial began. After consulting with Mr. Neuman in L, I informed him by telephone that on June 28 the defendant would have to plead, i.e., guilty, not guilty, etc. According to the law, the trial must begin sixty days after the indictment, which I was informed was around June 6 or 7. This period could be prolonged by agreement between the defense and prosecuting attorneys. I told him that the District Attorney in California ventured the guess that the trial would probably begin one-and-a-half to two months after June 28.

The Ambassador called me subsequently and said that the Jordan Honorary Consul George Zuraykat had contacted Sirhan on June 19. He said the authorities treated the Honorary Consul very well, but the interview resulted in little more than the Consul's finding out that Sirhan was in good health and was being treated well. A satisfactory conversation between the two was prevented because, according to the Jordan Ambassador, there was a glass partition between the Honorary Consul and Sirhan and the Consul had to talk to him by telephone. The Honorary Consul was enjoined that he had to speak in English or the conversation would be cut. The Ambassador wondered if this were normal procedure and if it would have made a difference if a member of his Embassy had tried to talk with Sirhan rather than the Honorary Consul. I told him I was not certain of what the law permitted, although I was somewhat surprised by the restrictions imposed. I told him that I would consult with our Legal Adviser's Office and would call him back.

37.

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA
XRPOL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

19 JUN 68 00 28Z

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Origin
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN PRIORITY
INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT PRIORITY
Amembassy TEL AVIV "
Amconsul JERUSALEM "
Amembassy TRIPOLI "
FBI

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case

1. Four or five Jordanian lawyers have reportedly been requested by Jordanian Lawyers Association and Arab Lawyers Federation to come to the United States to defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. Press has reported that lawyers already in touch with California Public Defenders' office.
2. Department has no knowledge of any visa applications by these lawyers. Regarding their standing in the California courts, we have referred press queries to California authorities.
3. FYI In order for Jordanian lawyers to represent Sirhan they would have to be admitted to practice by Superior Court of California. Action on application for admission to practice

1685891

Drafted by: L/NEA:RHNeuman:ew/dmg 6/18/68

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

NEA/ARN - Robert B. Houghton

Clearances:

NEA - Mr. Rockwell (draft)
SCA - Mr. Smith
L - Mr. Salans

AFN - Mr. Horan (info)
P/NEA - Mr. Wheelock (info)

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Classification

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before that court in this case would lie in discretion of trial judge. Judge could admit them as defense counsel or as associate counsel. END FYI.

4. Should lawyers decide come to US, we would be confronted by a dilemma. On the one hand we fear injection undesirable political element into case were Jordanian lawyers to defend Sirhan. Jordanian and Arab cause could suffer badly by over-zealous efforts of Arab lawyers, however well motivated. On the other hand, it is within Sirhan's constitutional right to request lawyer of his choice, which could include Jordanian lawyers as counsel and consequently would put USG and California court in awkward situation if refused.

5. In circumstances, there would seem be three courses we could follow. We could let nature take its course. Alternatively Embassy could approach appropriate GOJ officials and point out unfortunate political ramifications which could result if Jordanian lawyers were to represent Sirhan. Embassy could suggest that GOJ attempt in its own interest to dissuade these lawyers from pursuing their efforts on behalf Sirhan. Finally, or if lawyers persist, GOJ might attempt to persuade them to

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Classification

choose one of their number, perhaps with assistance Jordanian Lawyers Association, to come to United States and attend trial as observer in order to assure that trial being conducted fairly or as associate counsel.

6. Department requests your views and suggestions soonest.

GP-3

END

RUSK

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

37

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

186741
BISHARA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

Sm

19 JUN 68 23 47 Z

17L981 186741

Origin
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

.INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT
Amembassy TEL AVIV
Amconsul JERUSALEM
Amembassy TRIPOLI
~~XXXX~~ FBI

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case ^{PS 7-1}

REF: STATE 185891 and AMMAN 5400

1. Dept has noted June 19 FBIS report attributed Amman radio that Prime Minister Talhouni met June 19 with lawyers Atallah, Khalil, Baradii and Hawwa to discuss their intention to come to U.S. to assist Sirhan. According to FBIS report, result of meeting was cancellation of lawyers' proposed trip and entrusting of possible further action to Arab Lawyers' Federation whose Secgen may travel to U.S. on matter.

2. Jordanian Ambassador Sharaf called on Dept Officer June 19 to review various aspects of Sirhan case including proposed travel of Jordanian lawyers to U.S. Sharaf (^{protect}~~masked~~/source) confided that he had strongly advised GOJ to dissuade lawyers

DISCLOSED BY 15.3

Drafted by: NEA/ARN:RPPaganelli:dmg 6/19/68 3236
Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA/ARN - Robert B. Houghton

Clearances:
P/NEA - Mr. Wheelock (info)
L/NEA - Mr. Neuman (info)
AFN - Mr. Horan (info)

5

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Classification

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Classification

from coming here. Sharaf shares our concern that Arab lawyers initiative on behalf of Sirhan could inject unfavorable political aspect into case. Talhouni's action noted above may have been prompted by Sharaf's recommendation.

3. Dept also informed that Lebanese (BEIRUT's 10225) and Libyan lawyers have indicated interest in participation in Sirhan's defense. We view these gestures as most probably publicity stunts.

4. Comment: Talhouni's apparent intervention in matter appears for the time being to have partially circumscribed efforts of Jordanian lawyers to inject themselves into Sirhan case.

GP-3

END

RUSK

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

63
9355

LAW OFFICES
DANN, ROSENBAUM, BLOOM & KAUFMAN
1820 DAVID STOTT BUILDING
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

WOODWARD 1-1003

SOL A. DANN
FRANK ROSENBAUM
LESLIE D. BLOOM
BERNARD L. KAUFMAN
WILLIAM APPEL

HARRY SLAVIN
HENRY A. KROLIK
FREDERICK B. GOLB
JOHN SAFRAN
STUART H. BRICKNER

June 19, 1968

Dean Rusk,
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Re: Sirhan B. Sirhan

Dear Mr. Secretary;

→ As attorney who formerly represented Jack Ruby, I see many parallels between Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy and Sirhan's assassination of Senator Kennedy.

One of these similarities is the hate and prejudice of Anti-Semitism that led to each of these outrageous murders. (For a few factual details see specific references to Anti-Semitism in written Opinion of Texas Court of Appeals for reversing Ruby conviction and "Trial of Jack Ruby" by Kaplan & Waltz").

Sirhan is not the only Arab guilty of murder. Guilt is not restricted to the one who pulled the trigger. Guilt includes all those who triggered Sirhan's mind to act and caused him to suffer from irrational impulses, irresistible pressures and mental disturbances that culminated into an act of violence. Those Arab mis-leaders like Nasser who poisoned and polluted Sirhan's mind by filling him with the vicious hate and prejudice of Anti-Semitism (Anti-Zionism) are no less guilty than Sirhan.

Many Arabs like Sirhan have been misled to believe that Israel is their enemy and the cause of their enslavement and poverty; that the mere existence of an Israel in the Middle East, regardless of its size or boundaries, prevents Nasser from establishing the entire Middle East into a United Arab Republic that he claims would solve all Arab problems. This Nazi-type of propaganda has led to many irrational acts of violence and tragic murders similar to the recent Kennedy assassination.

① Not unlike Hitler, these Nassers have exploited and converted a natural brotherly love and friendship that previously existed between Jews and Arabs into enmity, hate and murder; contrary to the Golden Era; contrary to Kind Feisal's letter to Frankfurter and his agreement with Weitzman; contrary to the very teachings of Mohammed and his Holy Koran; and contrary to the Arabs own best interests.

The Sirhans were converted 'Christian-Arabs' living among Moslems in Israel and constantly subjected to and blinded by Nasser's false vicious propaganda. What could be more confusing and frustrating?

Sol A. DANN

PS 7-1 Jordan - US / Sirhan, Sirhan B. Sirhan

RECEIVED BY RS/A

Sirhan is so mixed up about his Arab Nationalism that he doesn't even know that his ancestors were not Jordanians. Jordan was only recently artificially created after his father was born. Jordan was carved out of the area for the proposed Re-establishment of the Jewish State.

Sirhan's Anti-Zionism was merely another form of Anti-Semitism. Limited space here prevents a detailed discussion of Sirhan's political paranoic Anti-Semitic Anti-Zionism. Suffice to say that the recent re-establishment of Israel could not be, and is not, responsible for the slavery and poverty suffered by the Arabs during the last 2000 years. Some Arab States are over 1000 miles away from Israel.

Sirhan didn't stop to realize that Israel (Palestine) was a Jewish state over 3000 years ago and that it was never at any time in all history, an Arab National Homeland. Nor that there is no 'conflict of interest' between Little Israel and the many vast Arab countries. But there are definite 'conflicts of interest' between the different Arab Leaders and the intrigues of various Foreign powers competing with each other to exploit, missionize and dominate the Arabs (vis a vis Russian, Vatican and Oil Barons).

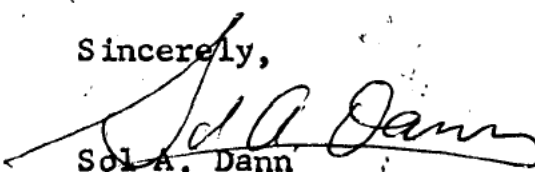
It is impossible to compare "on one foot" the respective rights and plight of the hundreds of thousands of Jewish Refugees from Arab countries, as against the claims of the Fugitives that Sirhan prefers to call "Arab Refugees" except to say that "War is Hell" and creates problems that only Peace can solve.

The Sirhans twisted the Arab proverb: "He who befriends my friend is also my friend" into "He who supports my enemy is also my enemy." Therefore, Nasser-propagandized Arabs believe they must murder every Israeli, or any American like Senator Kennedy who supported Israel.

If there were no Jews in the United States, it would still ^{Be our DUTY AND} behoove our Government to support a Democratic state like Israel to help establish World peace and freedom, and to protect our own American interests in the Middle East.

Genocide that has caused the murder of millions of innocent people feeds on fanatic national and religious hates and prejudices. Therefore, anyone who teaches or encourages Anti-Semitism (Anti-Zionism), be it nation, Church, or individual, aided, abetted and are no less guilty than Sirhan in the malicious premeditated murder of United States Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Sincerely,


Sol A. Dann

ACTION SLIP
(To Remain With Correspondence)

CONTROL NO.

PCD

S/S 9355

TO

DATE

- Mr. Coates

7/2/68

SUBJECT Ltr to S fm DANN dtd 6/19 re Sirhan B. Sirhan assassination of
Senator Robert Kennedy.

ACTION

*Prompt handling is essential. Return basic correspondence with reply. If delayed call telephone extension below.

~~XXX~~ For appropriate action.

For direct reply. Comeback copy required

Prepare reply. A response for signature by the

Clear with

Prepare a to

Refer to White House request of

Due in S/S by

For your information.

REMARKS

PCD: NOTE - Copy of attached letter also received by
Mr. Donnelley recently and sent to you for handling.

COPIES TO

NEA - Mr. Scotès (w/att)

Mr. Shepard X7552
SECRETARIAT STAFF

EXT.



PS 7-1 Jordan-US/Sirhan,
Department of State Sirhan Bishara
TELEGRAM
25

UNCLASSIFIED 784

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 3986 181144Z

52

ACTION NEA 15

INFO AF 09, GPM 04, NSC 10, SP 02, SS 20, RSC 01, L 03, H 02, P 04, USIE 00,

INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, DODE 00, RSR 01, /080 W

R 181122Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2820

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 3986

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS

UNDER HEADLINE, "PUBLICITY ASPECTS OF SIRHAN TRIAL",
ARABIC DAILY AL YOWM SUGGESTS THAT ARABS SHOULD TAKE
INITIATIVE, RATHER THAN BE ON DEFENSIVE, IN TRIAL AS
FAR AS PUBLICITY IS CONCERNED. THE PAPER STRONGLY
CONDEMNS ASSASSINATION" AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND
FOR HUMAN REASONS", BUT "AS LONG AS CRIME HAS BEEN
COMMITTED AND AS LONG AS ALLEGED MURDERER IS AN
ARAB AND BECAUSE THERE IS NO PROOF OF ANY
CONSPIRACY"

• ARABS SHOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF TRIAL
TO TELL THEIR STORY REGARDING PALESTINE QUESTION TO
AMERICANS. ZIONISTS, THE PAPER STATES, ARE ALREADY
USING ISSUE TO FURTHER THEIR PROPAGANDA. NEWSOM

Tripoli 3986

6/18/68

PS 7-1 Jordan-US/
Sirhan,
Sirhan Bishara

MICROFILMED BY 55-2

①

UNCLASSIFIED

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

184336

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

17 JUN 68 17 22z

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

Info:

— STATE

Classified pouch K2-1844, Inv. C-072, leaving Department June 17 contains, in envelope addressed to Ambassador, sealed letter to be delivered to Bishara Salameh Sirhan from Richard S. Buckley, Public Defender, Los Angeles, S/S Registry No. [REDACTED].

Pouch expected arrive June 20-21. Please acknowledge receipt and confirm/delivery ~~time~~ to Sirhan.

RUSK

RECEIVED AT SEA

Drafted by: S/S: JWDavis: fh

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

S/S - Mrs Davis

Clearances:

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification



Department of State

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Sirhan Bishara

TELEGRAM

23

CONFIDENTIAL 289

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10225 171657Z

47

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 20, SP 02, L 03, H 02, P 04, USIA 12, NSC 10, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02,
RSR 01, RSC 01, /079 W

R 171516Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5402
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10225

SUBJECT: SIRHAN TRIAL

1. JUNE 13 LEBANESE ATTORNEYS MOUSSA PRINCE AND ABDUL
HAMID EL-AHDAB CALLED AT EMBASSY TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE
IN CONTACTING CALIFORNIA AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN
FULL DETAILS RE BACKGROUND OF KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.
THEY BELIEVE MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SITUATION MAY WELL
HAVE BEEN A FACTOR MOTIVATING SIRHAN AND THEY BELIEVE
IT IMPERATIVE SIRHAN HAVE BENEFIT ARAB ATTORNEYS TO
INSURE PROPOER DEFENSE. THEY WISH AUTHORITY TALK TO
SIRHAN IN ORDER DETERMINEWETHER THEY COULD PARTICIPATE
HIS DEFENSE. THEY LEFT AT EMBASSY WRITTEN MEMO TO
AMBASSADOR REQUESTING EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN FOREGOING.

2. EMBOFF TOLD PRINCE EMBASSY COULD NOT BE OF ASSISTANCE
THIS MATTER AND SUGGESTED HE COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH
WILBUR LITILEFIELD, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HE SUBSEQUENTLY DID.

3. JUNE 17 EMBASSY LEARNED THAT PRINCE AND EL-AHDAB GAVE
COPIES THEIR MEMO TO REPS MAJOR WIMQ SEGMLCES. FURTHERMORE
THEY INTERVIEWED BY LA TIMES ANDCHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPS
AND TAPED SHORT INTERVIEW FOR ABC.

4. PRINCE REGARDED LOCALLY AS ONE OF BETTER LEBANESE
CRIMINAL LAWYERS. BOTH HE AND EL-AHDAD ALSO ACTIVE IN
LEBANESE YOUNG LAWYERS LEAGUE. EMBASSY ASSUMES THEIR
MOVE ESSENTIALLY STUNT TO SEEK PUBLICITY.
PORTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

Beirut 10225
6/17/68

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

184216

BISHARA

A

15 JUN 68 20 01Z

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(11)

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Origin

ACTION: Amconsul JERUSALEM PRIORITY
Amembassy TEL AVIV "
Amembassy AMMAN "
Amembassy BEIRUT "
Amembassy NICOSIA "

Info:

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case

REF: STATE 182633; JERUSALEM 1399

1. If Bishara Sirhan is otherwise eligible, you should grant visa.
2. Should Sirhan inquire or seem receptive to advice re security arrangements, you should inform him that as he knows from press reports Senator Kennedy's assassination has aroused deep feeling within the United States. Bearing this in mind, we will undertake to notify local police authorities of his itinerary if he wishes us to do so.
3. FYI. Dept of Justice is informing Sirhan's lawyer in California of possibility ~~that possibly~~ Sirhan's father may apply for visa to the United States and that if he is otherwise eligible we will grant visa. Lawyer also being ~~been~~ told that if he would like send message to Sirhan's father, we would be willing transmit ~~message~~ it. END FYI.
4. FOR AMMAN. Should Sirhan apply for visa, you should approach GOJ and not rpt not on behalf of USG with recommendation that someone from GOJ on his own behalf/should say following to Sirhan:

RECEIVED IN USA

184216

(5)

Drafted by: <i>WJS</i>	Tel. Ext. 3255	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: <i>WJS</i>	Nea - William J. Handley <i>WJS</i>
NEA: William J. Handley: dmj 6/15/68			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Clearances:	NEA/ARN - Mr. Holloman	U - Mr. Katzenbach (sub)	XXXXXX
SCA - Mr. Smith <i>FS</i>	USIA - Mr. Carter <i>AB</i>	JUSTICE - Mr. Lynch Vinson	<i>FV</i>
NEA - Mr. Battle <i>FT by PMA</i>	L/NEA - Mr. Wehmeier <i>DIA</i>	P - Mr. Phillips <i>RPG/mk</i>	<i>4/24</i>
SY/PRS - Mr. Tully <i>ALLA</i>			
NEA/IAI - Mr. Athe			

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

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Classification

"As you know, your son's trial will take place shortly in the United States. In order to protect his right to a fair trial we suggest that you be very careful in what you say publicly about the case, at least until you talk to your son's lawyer."

CP-3

END

RUSK

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Classification

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

11

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

184216

BISHARA

A

15 JUN 68 20 01Z

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Origin

ACTION: Amconsul JERUSALEM PRIORITY
Amembassy TEL AVIV "
Amembassy AMMAN "
Amembassy BEIRUT "
Amembassy NICOSIA "

Info:

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case

REF: STATE 182633; JERUSALEM 1399

1. If Bishara Sirhan is otherwise eligible, you should grant visa.
2. Should Sirhan inquire or seem receptive to advice re security arrangements, you should inform him that as he knows from press reports Senator Kennedy's assassination has aroused deep feeling within the United States. Bearing this in mind, we will undertake to notify local police authorities of his itinerary if he wishes us to do so.
3. FYI. Dept of Justice is informing Sirhan's lawyer in California of possibility that possibly Sirhan's father may apply for visa to the United States and that if he is otherwise eligible we will grant visa. Lawyer also being told that if he would like send message to Sirhan's father, we would be willing transmit ~~message~~ it. END FYI.
4. FOR AMMAN. Should Sirhan apply for visa, you should approach GOJ and not rpt not on behalf of USG with recommendation that someone from GOJ on his own behalf/should say following to Sirhan:

Drafted by:

NEA:William J. Handley:dmg 6/15/68

Tel. Ext.

3255

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

Nea - William J. Handley

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Clearances:

SCA - Mr. Smith
NEA - Mr. Battis
SY/PRS - Mr. Tully
NEA/IAI - Mr. Atherton

NEA/ARN - Mr. Holloman
USIA - Mr. Carver
L/NEA - Mr. Wehmeier

U - Mr. Katzenbach (subs)
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
JUSTICE - Mr. Lynne Vinson
P - Mr. Phillips

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

"As you know, your son's trial will take place shortly in the United States. In order to protect his right to a fair trial we suggest that you be very careful in what you say publicly about the case, at least until you talk to your son's lawyer."

GP-3

END

RUSK

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

37



POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN
BEIRHAN
BISHARA

CONFIDENTIAL 537

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04128 140856Z

12
ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, SS 20, SY 03, USIE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 00,

RSC 01, RSR 01, /066 W

P R 140840Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4044
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4128,

JOINT STATE/USIS MESSAGE

REF: STATE 182627; LONDON 9869

UPI'S TEL AVIV CORRESPONDENT SIMON TELLS US HE HAS JUST
FILED STORY ON TALK WITH SIRHAN'S FATHER WHICH EFFECTIVELY
SHOOTS DOWN KIMCHE STORY (LONDON REFTEL). BOTH SIRHAN'S
FATHER AND A FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER OF HIS DENY SIRHAN EVER
MARRIED AND STATE OTHER DETAILS VERY IMPROBABLE. SIMON
SPECULATES KIMCHE MAY HAVE GOTTEN HIS STORY FROM BEIRUT
SOURCES AND POINTS OUT THERE VERY WELL MAY BE ANOTHER
SIRHAN WHO HAS PERSONAL HISTORY ALONG LINES REPORTED BY
KIMCHE.

GP-3. BARBOUR

TL
Aviv 4128
6-14-68

2

CONFIDENTIAL



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN, BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 743

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05022 150722Z

17
ACTION NEA 15

INFO AF 09, EUR 15, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12,
H 02, SS 20, NSC 10, L 03, SY 03, FBI 01, JUS 02, INS 03, SCA 02, RSR 01,
/110 W

P R 141615Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5718
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL ADEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5022

SUBJ: REUTERS ARTICLE ON SIRHAN TRAVELS

REF: STATE 182627

DEPT PASS CAIRO

EMB CONTACTED LOCAL REUTERS CORRESPONDENT WHO SUPPLIED FRENCH
TEXT OF DISPATCH, BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON SOURCE OF STORY
OR ARAB GOVERNMENT SUPPOSEDLY INVOLVED. GP-3. RUSSELL

NOTE: NOT PASSED CAIRO BY OC/T.

CONFIDENTIAL

37
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F
VP PS 111 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
182627
Department of State

INDICATE CHARGE TO COLLECT

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

Origin

Info

ACTION:	Amembassy AMMAN	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy BEIRUT	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy TEL AVIV	IMMEDIATE
	Amconsul JERUSALEM	IMMEDIATE
	USINT CAIRO	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy JIDDA	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy KUWAIT	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy ADEN	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy TRIPOLI	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy TUNIS	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy RABAT	IMMEDIATE
	Amembassy LONDON	IMMEDIATE

13 JUN 68 21 10z

STATE

Reuters item datelined London June 13 reported unidentified Arab government developed startling information on Senator Kennedy assassination and giving details to FBI. Report ASAP any information available on origin and veracity this story.

End

RUSK

NEA/ARN:MWwiley:psw 6/13/68

3236

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

NEA - William J. Handley

Clearance:

O/SY/PRS - T.J. Shea
UAR - Mr. Johnstone

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

182633

BISHARA

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

Origin

ACTION:

AmConGen JERUSALEM PRIORITY
Amembassy TEL AVIV PRIORITY
Amembassy AMMAN PRIORITY
Amembassy BEIRUT PRIORITY
Amembassy, NICOSIA PRIORITY
STATE

Info:

SUBJECT: Sirhan Case

Press stories indicate Bishara Sirhan, father of Sirhan Sirhan, may visit U.S. connection trial his son. If Bishara Sirhan applies for visa, notify Department immediately. You may proceed with normal processing application but take no final action pending instructions from Department.

GP-3

END

RECEIVED BY DIA

RUSK

Drafted by: SCA:FSmith, Jr; rev 6/13/68

Tel. Ext. 4197

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

SCA - Frederick Smith, Jr.

Clearances:

NEA - Mr. Battle
SY/PRS - Mr. Tully
NEA - Mr. Hanley
NEA/ARN - Mr. Houghton
USIA - Mr. Carter
L/NEA - Mr. Wehmeyer
U - Mr. Eagleburger
Justice - Mr. Lynch
P - Mr. Phillips

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POL 6-2 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

Department of State

TELEGRAM

NR PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN

SIRHAN BUSHARA

UNCLASSIFIED 732

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01627 101120Z

41
ACTION

INFO AF 09, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, USIE 00, H 02,

KSR 01, /024 W

P 101051Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2876

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 1627

JOINT STATE/USIS MESSAGE

SUDAN TV EVENING NEWSCAST JUNE 7 ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. REPORTAGE INCLUDED: REPEAT OF STATEMENT BY GOS SPOKESMAN HASSABU CARRIED PREVIOUS DAY BY PRESS, RADIO AND TV; TV CLIPS OF KENNEDY CAREER, CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN, VICTORY STATEMENT, SHOOTING IN AMBASSADOR HOTEL, AND CAPTURE OF ACCUSED; AND STILL PHOTOS OF SIRHAN BUSHARA SIRHAN. ALL NEWSCASTS RADIO OMDURMAN JUNE 7 CARRIED REUTER REPORTS ON ASSASSINATION INCLUDING FULL BACKGROUND SIRHAN BUSHARA SIRHAN.

EXCERPTS FROM "FOREIGN DIRARY" COLUMN OF RAI EL AMH JUNE 8 FOLLOW: "HE WHO BENEFITTED FROM DEATH OF JOHN KENNEDY WAS JOHNSON; AND HE WHO BENEFITTED FROM DEATH OF ROBERT KENNEDY WAS HUBERT HUMPHREY, DEPUTY TO JOHNSON...IT MAY BE THAT BUSHARA SHOT KENNEDY BUT WHO PUT WEAPON IN HIS HAND AND PROVOKED, THREATENED AND PRESSURED HIM? SIRHAN IS AN ARAB AND AMERICANS ARE READY TO BELIEVE ANYTHING BAD ABOUT AN ARAB...THE SELECTION OF AN ARAB YOUNG MAN TO PLAY THE ROLE OF THE NEW OSWALD DOES NOT CHANGE ANYTHING KNOWN BY WORLD TODAY, WHICH IS THAT AMERICA IS GOVERNED BY CCMIME..." NOEL

UNCLASSIFIED

①



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM
23

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 236

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01374 071619Z

53
ACTION L 03

INFO EUR 15, NEA 13, IO 13, VO 02, SY 03, P 04, USIA 12, INS 03, SCA 02,

CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, FBI 01, RSR 01, H 02, SS 20, NSC 10,

/112 W

P R 071530Z JUN 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1785
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION NEW YORK

RECEIVED BY 15/8

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1374

SUBJECT: BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: STATE 178228

1. VICE CONSUL INTERVIEWED BISHARA SIRHAN BRIEFLY AT HIS TAYBEH HOME AFTERNOON JUNE 7. SIRHAN SAID HE LAST DEPARTED US BY AIR FROM NEW YORK MARCH 11, 1966. LEBANESE ENTRY STAMP IN HIS JORDANIAN PASSPORT DATED MARCH 12, 1966 TENDS CONFIRM STATEMENT. ON PRIOR TRIP HE DEPARTED US ABOUT MAY 27, 1963 RETURNING THERE FROM JORDAN VIA NYC MAY 5, 1964, ENTERING ON ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD RATHER THAN VISA.

2. SIRHAN MADE ONLY ONE REFERENCE TO HIS FAMILY SAYING ALL MEMBERS INCLUDING WIFE WERE NOW IN US.

3. ISRAELI SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE STATIONED AT SIRHAN HOME.

4. FYI--JERUSALEM POST JUNE 7 CARRIED EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW BY MEMBERS THEIR STAFF (AND OTHER REPORTERS) WITH SENIOR SIRHAN
EARLY MORNING HOURS JUNE 6. FATHER, LPE VILLAGE MUKHTARI AND A

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FORMER SCHOOLMASTER SAID YOUNG SIRHAN "GENTLE, POLITE, QUIET AND HUMBLE BOY INTERESTED MAINLY IN BOOKS. IT'S BEYOND COMPREHENSION HOW HE COULD HAVE COMMITTED SUCH TERRIBLE ACT AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE WITHOUT HAVING BEEN PUT UP TO THIS BY SOME OTHER PEOPLE." ZDSHARA SIRHAN QUOTED AS SAYING SON WAS "A GOOD CHRISTIAN. HE COULD NOT HAVE DONE SUCH A THING ON HIS OWN. SOMEONE MUST HAVE PUSHED HIM TO IT."

5. FYI--ABOUT HOUR AFTER INTERVIEW MUKHTAR PHONED NYTIMES CORRESPONDENT AND SAID ELDER SIRHAN WAS "PROBLEM." BASED ON STORIES FROM MUKHTAR AND FORMER NEIGHBORS, NYTIMES MAN TOLD US HE FORMS PICTURE OF FATHER WHO WAS OFTEN JOBLESS, GENERALLY SHIFTLESS, BRUTAL TO HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND IN TURN DISLIKED AND EVENTUALLY REJECTED BY THEM. ACCORDING NEWSMAN'S SOURCES, FLIGHT OF MOTHER AND CHILDREN TO US AS REFUGEES WAS ARRANGED BY LOCAL CHURCH FRIENDS TO ESCAPE FATHER. ALTHOUGH HE EVENTUALLY REJOINED THEM IN US, FAMILY STRIFE CONTINUED RESULTING IN HIS RETURN TO PALESTINE AND LIVING ALONE IN TAYSEH NOW. END FYI.

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Classification

6 JUN 68 22 50z

L 178225

REF: Amman's 5202

FOR JERUSALEM: INS requests you ascertain from
Bishara Sirhan date he left US. END

RUSK

Created by:

L/NEA: DAWehmeyer:eg/	6/6/68	Tel. Ext. 5895	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA - Mr. Rockwell
NEA/IAI - Mr. Precht			SY - Mr. Lynch
NEA/ARN - Mr. Wiley			P - Mr. Phillips
VO - Mr. Owen			USIA - Mr. Carter

INS - Mr. Burrows

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
Department of State BISHARA
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 530

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01363 061116Z

20 11
ACTION NEA 15

INFO IO 13,SS 20,GPM 04,L 03,H 02,CIAE 00,DODE 00,INR 07,NSAE 00,P 04,
RSC 01,USIA 12,RSR 01,SSD 00,/082 W

P R 061030Z JUN 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1778
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JERUSALEM 1363

SUBJECT: KENNEDY SHOOTING SUSPECT

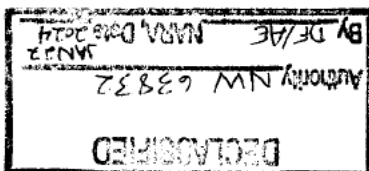
REF: JERUSALEM 1362

1. CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEE WAS INFORMED JUNE 6 BY FELLOW MEMBER HIS CHRISTIAN SECT THAT HE KNOWS FAMILY OF SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN (REFTEL). SAID THEY ARE CHRISTIANS FROM TAYBEH AND FATHER AND MOTHER BOTH IN US.

2. CALL FROM SWISS NEWSMAN SUGGESTED PRESS BELIEVES CONGEN TRYING CONTACT SIRHAN RELATIVES HERE. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT SOUGHT CONTACT TAYBEH AMCIT REGISTRANTS (NOR DO WE KNOW IF THEY STILL RESIDENT THERE) SO AS TO AVOID BRINGING ATTENTION TO THEM. IF THEY CONTACT CONGEN FOR PROTECTION OR ASSISTANCE, WE PLAN DETERMINE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN LIGHT OF THEN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCE.

3. FYI--CAS SOURCE HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT RAMALLAH MILGOV AND PRESS HAVE DISCOVERED TAYBEH CONNECTION AND INTERVIEWED "SIRHAN'S FATHER." WE SEEKING CONFIRM.

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STATE DEPARTMENT SYSTEMATIC REVIEW
☐ Retain class n ☐ Change class n to
☒ Declassify with concurrence of CIA
EO 12958, 25X
FPC/HDR by PRC Date: 11/5/96

Withdrawal No. _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Jerusalem 1363
6-6-68*

177516
BISHARA
B

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHANGE TO

6 JUN 68 15 34Z

Origin

ACTION: AMConsul JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

Info:

INFO: Amembassy AMMAN
 --- " TEL AVIV
 - USUN

STATE:

REF: Jerusalem 1364 -

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BLSBACX BLCBAX LEX HOFX RPTX HOFX AHOC FXXXXXX ENDX
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father of Sirhan Sirhan

According USG records Bishara Sirhan/is not ~~RET~~ not Amcit. END.

RUSK

Drafted by:

L/NEA:DAWelmeier:eg

Tel. Ext.

5895

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

SCA - Barbara M. Watson

Clearances:

NEA/ARN - Mr. Wiley *mww*

SY/PRS ~~Mr.~~ Lynch

NEA - Mr. Rockwell

USIA - Mr. Carter

INS - ~~XX~~ Mr. Lindsay

P - Mr. Phillips

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PS 7-1 JORDAN- US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01364 061350Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 20, GPM 04, L 03, H 02, USIE 00, CIAE 00, CODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00,

P 04, RSC 01, SSO 00, NSCE 00, NSC 10, CCO 00, RSR 01, IO 13, /080 W

Q R 061330Z JUN 68 ZFF-4
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1779
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1364

SUBJECT: KENNEDY SHOOTING SUSPECT

REF: JERUSALEM 1363

1. BBC AND KOL ISRAEL NEWS BROADCASTS AFTERNOON JUNE 6
STATE PRESS HAS INTERVIEWED "FATHER OF SIRHAN SIRHAN" AT TAYBEH.
BBC SAID FATHER WAS QUOTED THAT IF SON GUILTY THIS CRIME,
HE SHOULD BE HANGED.

2. IS BISHARA SIRHAN AMCIT?

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6-6-68

(1)

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

XR POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT



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ACTION NEA 15

INFO IO 13,SSO 00,NSCE 00,CCO 00,USIE 00,SY 03,CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,

H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,FBI 01,

RSR 01,086 W

O 052250Z JUN 68 ZFF6
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1776
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1360

REF: STATE 176785

1. SEARCH OF PERTINENT CONGEN RECORDS (UNDER VARIOUS COMBINATIONS THREE NAMES KENNEDY SHOOTING SUSPECT REFTEL) SHOWS ONLY FOLLOWING MEMBERS SIRHAN FAMILY. ALL WERE AMCITS WHEN REGISTERED AT CONGEN.

A. SALIM SIRHAN, DOB FEB 10, 1900 AT TAYBEH, NEAR RAMALLAH. NATURALIZED PITTSBURG 1926. US PASSPORT [REDACTED] ISSUED WASHINGTON MAY 26, 1960. REGISTERED HERE AUG 15, 1960. SALESMAN. EMERGENCY ADDRESS MRS. MIRIAM S. SIRHAN (WIFE), 1211 HUBBARD ST., DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

B. NIMEH SALEM SIRHAN, BORN AMCIT JAN 23, 1948, TAHBEH NEAR RAMALLAH. REGISTERED AT CONGEN JUNE 11, 1962. STUDENT. FATHER IS AYED SALEM SARHAN OF TAYBEH.

C. AID SALIM SIRHAN, BORN TAYBEH, DOB UNKNOWN TO CONGEN. APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION DEC 8, 1964. COMMENT: AID SALIM MAY BE VARIANT SPELLING OF AYED SALEM. FATHER OF (B) ABOVE.

2. CONGEN ISSUED NO RPT NO VISAS PRIOR SEPT. 1917.

3. CONGEN HAD HAD PRESS INQUIRIES FROM MICHAEL ELKINS (BBC AND CBS) AND TERENCE SMITH (NYTIMES), PLUS LOCAL JOURNALIST RAJA A. ISSA (FORMER EDITOR JORDANIAN AL FALASTINI). ALL WERE INFORMED CONGEN WAS NO RPT NO KNOWLEDGE SIRHAN SIRHAN. AL ISSA WAS ASKED IF HE KNEW ANY OF FAMILY AND HE REPLIED NEGATIVE.

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4. LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF CONGEN IS RESIDENT OF SILWAN VILLAGE, WHICH RADIO REPORTS INDICATE WAS ORIGINAL HOME OF SUSPECT IN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. WE HAVE QUERIED HIM, SINCE HE CONSIDERED VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT LOCAL RESIDENTS. FAMILY NAME FAMILIAR BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW ANY FIRST NAMES GIVEN REFTEL FOR SUSPECT OR BROTHERS.

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